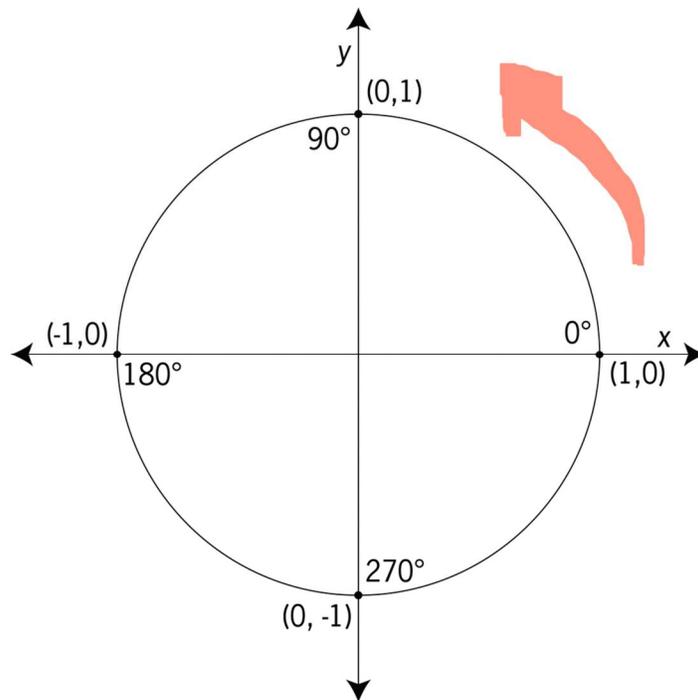


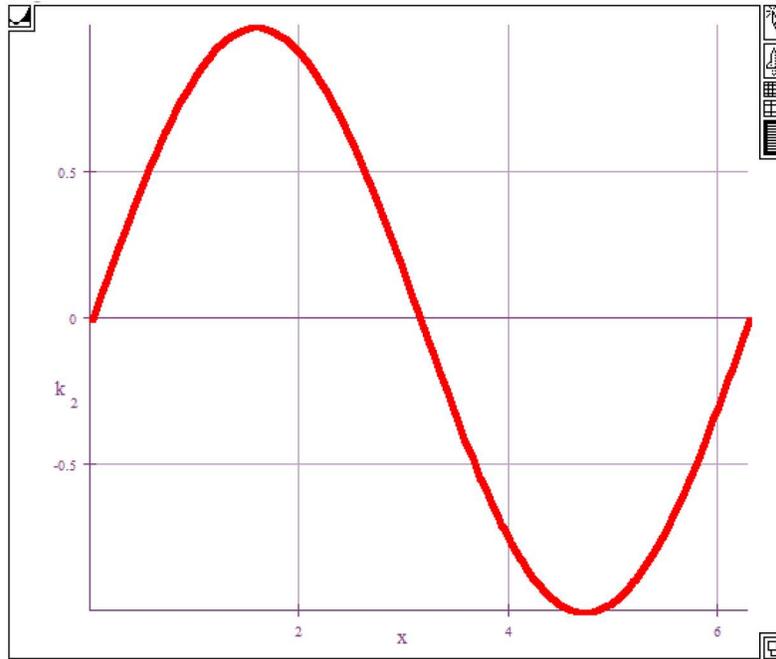
THE CYCLE OF BECOMING

There are many things in this world that we tend to think of as binary, characterized by just two possible states. An example of such might be a simple overhead light which is either on or off. However, upon closer examination a situation such as turning on or off a light may not be so binary after all. For example, if you control the light with a standard wall switch, then we could say that the switch actually passes through an infinite number of positions as it moves from down to up. Similarly, we could point out that if we slowed down time then we would see the light itself also going through an infinite number of states from off to dim to fully lit, and we could see this even more clearly by just using a standard dimmer switch. But in other words, in many instances where we might think that the world is binary, it is in fact non-binary as it goes through a cycle containing an infinite number of stages.

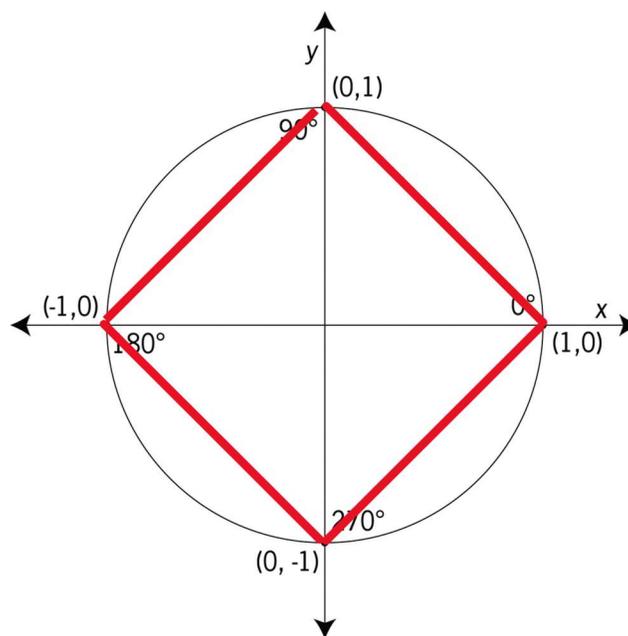
Visually, the simplest way to depict a cycle is as a circle such as the one below that I've placed in a coordinate plane.



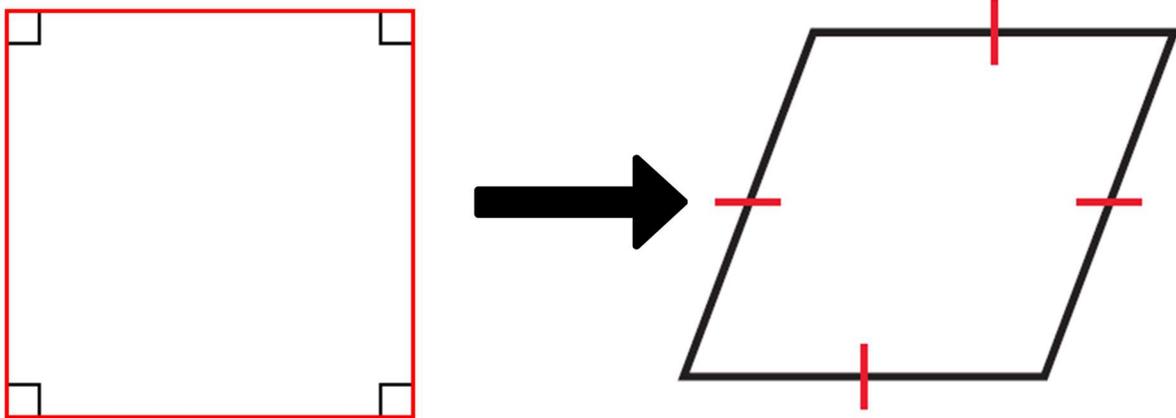
In this picture, imagine starting on the right at the point labeled $(1,0)$ and then traveling counterclockwise around the circle. When we are at 0 degrees (the point $(1,0)$) our elevation above horizontal is zero units. However, when we reach the point labeled $(0,1)$, we are at the 90 degree point and our elevation is now 1 unit above horizontal. At 180 degrees (the point $(-1,0)$) we are back to zero elevation above the horizontal axis again. As we continue to 270 degrees (the point $(0,-1)$) we find ourselves 1 unit below the horizontal axis, and then when we arrive back at $(1,0)$ we complete the cycle as we return to zero elevation. This type of cyclic journey is also represented by the kind of curve below (a sine curve) that goes from zero elevation to 1 unit above horizontal, from 1 unit above to zero and then to 1 unit below, and finally back to zero elevation to complete the cycle.



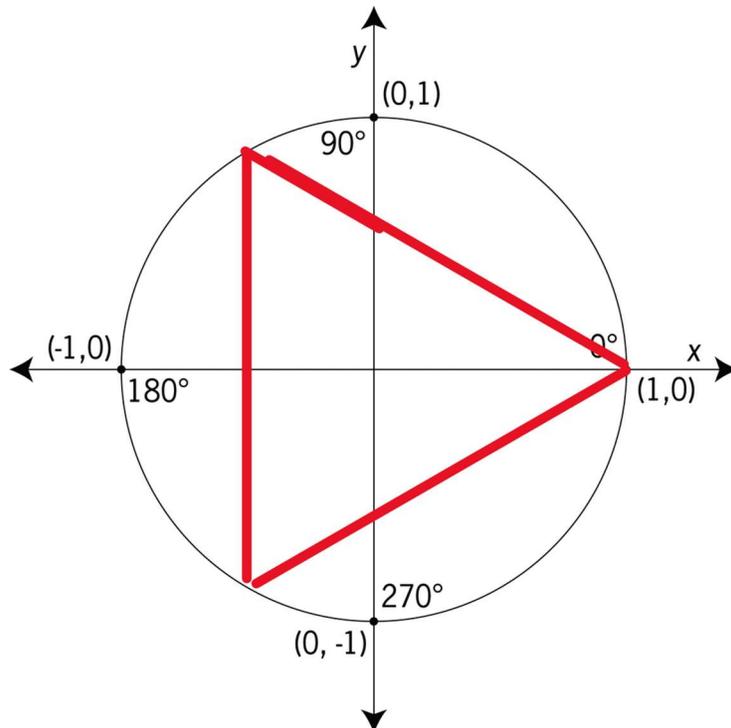
In this diagram it's much easier to see that those points that are at the "top of the hill" or "bottom of the valley" are turning points where our elevation above horizontal switches from either increasing to decreasing or decreasing to increasing. Likewise, there are other turning points as we change from positive to negative and back again from negative to positive. Mathematically, turning points are always, however brief, moments of instability. It's like when you are changing gears on a car. There's a brief moment when the car is in neutral and is momentarily out of your control! Basically, we find turning points of various sorts at every quarter of our cycle, and if we consider the monthly lunar cycle, then these turning points would correspond to New Moon, First Quarter, Full Moon, Third Quarter, and then back to New Moon as the cycle begins anew. If we now draw in some points to mark off the quarters of our cycle and if we connect these points with straight lines, then notice that we get a square.



What's interesting about a square, though, is that it is not by itself a very stable structure. If you apply just a little stress to one of the sides, then it's not too difficult to distort the square into another shape.

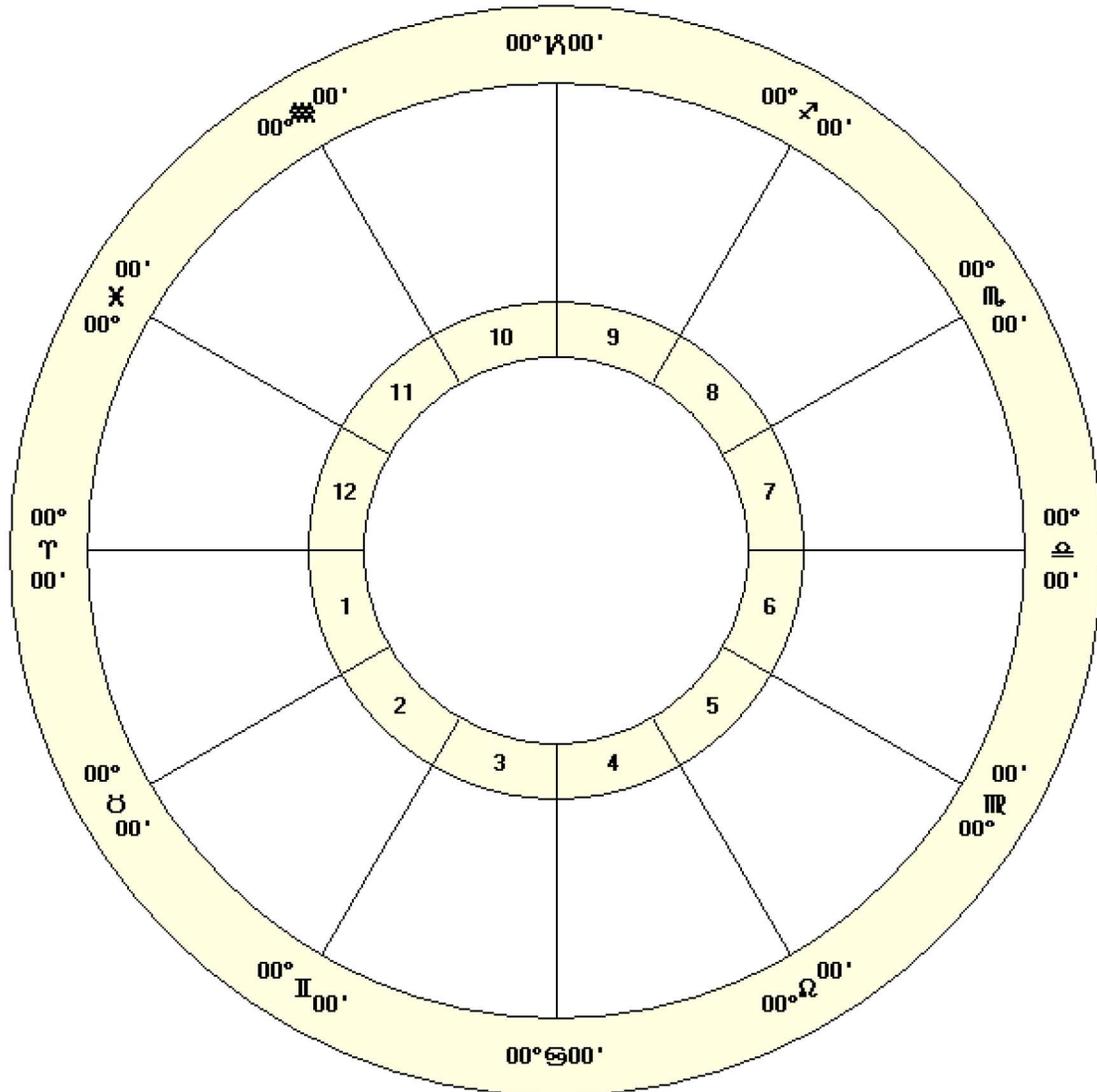


This suggests that those turning points of various sorts that occur at multiples of 90 degrees are, indeed, moments of instability when things are more likely to change. Now, however, let's see what happens if we decide to divide up our cycle into thirds. This is a natural thing to do because every journey has three parts – a beginning, a middle, and an end.

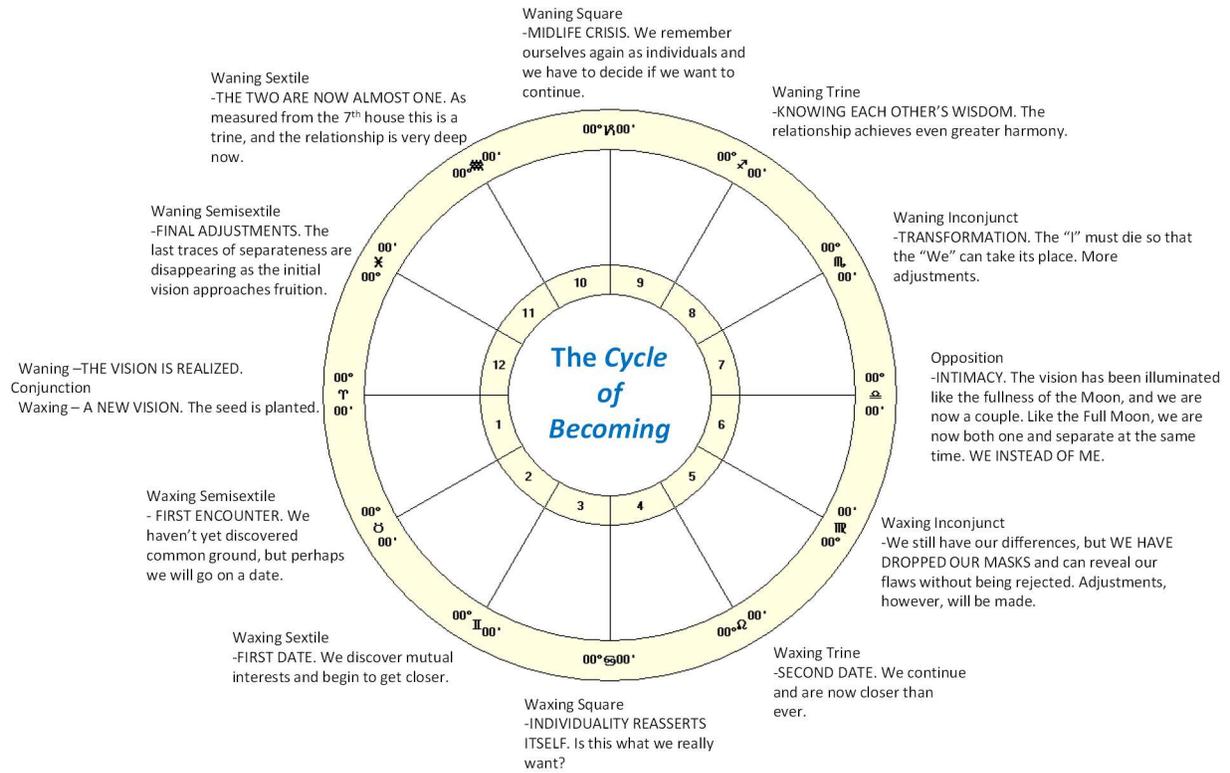


When we divide our circle into thirds and connect the dots, the result is an equilateral triangle which, unlike the square, is a very stable structure. This suggests that perhaps divisions of a cycle into thirds identifies points of stability within the overall structure. If we now divide each quarter of our cycle into

thirds, then will obtain something that looks like our usual blank horoscope of a circle divided into twelve sections that can equally contain 30 degrees each.



Thus, rather than trying to describe a cycle as binary with only two states such as off or on, it is more meaningful to focus on the nonbinary nature of a cycle as a process that goes through a variety of phases. We are breaking up our cycle into 12 equal parts or phases that are traversed from beginning to end, and we can associate these phases with the stages that a typical relationship, whether a friendship or a romance, might go through. Below we give descriptions of these phases and then we'll show how these phases relate to the corresponding aspect, house, and sign. Also, we start our zodiac at the traditional starting point of 0 degrees Aries.



Below now is a table that again details the primary stages of a relationship, and it shows how each of these stages winds up defining the meanings of the corresponding aspect, house, and sign.

Angle	Aspect	Meaning	House	Sign
0 degrees	Conjunction	The relationship begins. All is but a vision, a small seed, at this point.	House 1 - The focus is squarely on the beginning.	Aries - The first sign of the zodiac assists the relationship with its energy.
30 degrees	Waxing Semisextile	After the initial meeting, the two separate with intention to see each other again.	House 2 - The focus of this house is to maintain what was begun in the previous house.	Taurus - This sign is persevering, and the beginning of any relationship is assisted by perseverance.
60 degrees	Waxing Sextile	The two come back together in greater harmony.	House 3 - The focus of this house is to analyze how the relationship is going and to make adjustments toward harmony.	Gemini - This sign assists the relationship through analysis of its progress followed by the necessary adjustments.
90 degrees	Waxing Square	This point is both stable and unstable at the same time. It is stable in the sense that this is a station along the way that things will pause at for a while. But it is also unstable in the sense that tension exists at this point. This is the point at which one will have to decide to either pursue deeper harmony or to sever the relationship completely. Will the relationship continue or will it end? That is the decision that must be made here.	House 4 - This house represents our personal environment, and within this environment we have to set up a hierarchy of what's important to notice and what isn't. If the relationship isn't going to continue, then its importance will be reduced to zero.	Cancer - This sign assists this phase of the relationship by being more sensitive to its surroundings than most of the other signs of the zodiac.
120 degrees	Waxing Trine	This is a point of maximum harmony in the relationship.	House 5 - This house facilitates harmony in the relationship by promoting pleasure, recreation, and personal creativity. It also maintains our perception of our personal environment by relieving stress. When we are overcome with stress, our ability to correctly perceive elements of our environment is impaired.	Leo - This sign puts the most focus on our self. How does this assist the harmony of the relationship? Because the closer we get to understanding who we really are, the more love and unity we will feel since our awareness is an undivided whole. By aligning with our real self, we are aligning with the source of our life and creativity.
150 degrees	Waxing Inconjunct	The two are close enough that they can now be around each other without having to wear their masks. Additional adjustments, however, will likely have to be made before the culmination of the relationship.	House 6 - This house is traditionally associated with health and employment. In actuality, it is a feedback house for the first six. In this house, personal karma is met, corrections are made, and this usually takes work and may also involve some illness.	Virgo - This sign assists with this phase of the relationship through its attention to minutia and the details of any situation. By striving for perfect order, Virgo sets the stage for the final flowering. Also, since Virgo is ruled by Mercury, this suggests that at this point the adjustments have to be made by the verbal, left hemisphere of the brain.

Angle	Aspect	Meaning	House	Sign
180 degrees	Opposition	Like the Full Moon in the Lunar cycle, the opposition represents the peak of the relationship. At this point both the union and the individuality are experienced with equal force. The other and the self are being integrated to form the "we."	House 7 - This is traditionally the house of marriage and partnerships, and this facilitates the integration of opposites that the opposition wants to achieve.	Libra - This sign is ruled by Venus, and it is social and seeks harmonious relationships with others. This form of expression facilitates the goal of the opposition.
210 degrees	Waning Inconjunct	At the waning inconjunct, the opposition has been experienced and passed, and now the focus is on maintaining the "we."	House 8 - This is traditionally the house of death and transformation. However, it is also the second house when counting from the seventh, and so it works to maintain the union that flowered at the opposition. To maintain the union, however, the ego and the sense of separateness from the other must die and be transformed. This is how House 8 assists this stage of the relationship. Also, since the eighth house is the second from the seventh, it rules the resources needed by the relationship.	Scorpio - This sign is introverted and feeling-oriented, and it is ruled by Pluto. This means that Scorpio has very strong emotions and feelings, and it is this sort of strength of attachment that is needed in order to convince the self to abandon separateness in favor of union. Additionally, because of the strong emotions and feelings that are involved at this point of the relationship, any adjustments to be made will be more right brain than left brain. More related to feelings than verbal thoughts.
240 degrees	Waning Trine	At the waning trine the two are now one as they reside in great harmony.	House 9 - The ninth house traditionally rules religion, higher learning, and long distance traveling. These are all activities that expand our perspective. Also, the ninth house is the third from the seventh, and as such it represents the group mind or the mind of the other. This suggests that in order to have a strong relationship we must not only know ourselves, we must also deeply know the other person.	Sagittarius - This sign is ruled by Jupiter, and, thus, it is all about growth and expansion. It is also extroverted and feeling oriented, and its exuberance facilitates this phase of the relationship.
270 degrees	Waning Square	At the waning square, individuality reasserts itself one more time. Perhaps it is a midlife crisis. Perhaps the union was never meant to be after all. However, if this last crisis is successfully traversed, then the union will be headed toward its final completion.	House 10 - Houses 4 & 10 both create crises for the relationship because attention is being directed to other things, either the personal environment or the social environment. Consequently, in these houses there is a danger of being pulled away from the relationship into something else. However, a balance between competing interests can always be found.	Capricorn - This sign is an earth sign (introverted-thinking), and it is ruled by Saturn which seeks to control and regulate things. This personality type seeks to control the social environment as represented by the tenth house, and through control one can increase one's status. However, such inclinations towards control can also facilitate a crisis in the relationship.

Angle	Aspect	Meaning	House	Sign
300 degrees	Waning Sextile	The waning sextile is also a waxing trine when measured from the seventh house. This is a point at which midlife crises have been successfully maneuvered, and the union is stronger than ever.	House 11 - Traditionally, this is the house of friends, hopes, and ambitions. It is actually a house that is associated with group activities and group creativity, and this also suggests that we can create great harmony in society if we only work together.	Aquarius - This sign is opposite Leo which is focused primarily on the self. Hence, as its opposite, Aquarius is focused more on the collective rather than the individual, and this focus on the collective fosters the sense of "we" that is now very strong in the relationship.
330 degrees	Waning Semisextile	The waning semisextile is the last station before the completion of the cycle. At this point everything is being left behind that does not conform to the perfect union.	House 12 - Traditionally known as the house of self-undoing and hidden enemies, the twelfth house is really about a withdrawal from manifestation as the cycle nears completion. Every cycle we undergo is about learning something, and once the task is complete, the knowledge remains, but the vehicle can be jettisoned. House 12 is also the sixth as measured from House 7, and so it speaks to those minor adjustments that must be made in order to complete the original vision.	Pisces - This sign is ruled by Neptune which dissolves the boundaries that define many of our perceptions. This facilitates the withdrawal from action that occurs as the task is completed.

Following the waning semisextile is the final conjunction, and this is the completion of our cycle. The knowledge that was sought has been obtained, and a new cycle can now begin. However, one of the very important points of the above was to illustrate how the aspects, the houses, and the signs of the zodiac all correspond to and facilitate the different stages of the relationship as they unfold in the cycle. Hence, instead of thinking of the zodiac as corresponding to constellations and points in space, we can think of it as being defined by points in time. Also, by decoupling the zodiac from the constellations and showing that a zodiac is implied by every cycle, we are greatly extending the range of events that may be understood by this process. Pay attention to this because this is a very important point – every cycle is characterized by phases similar to the ones that we have described above, and, thus, every cycle defines a zodiac!

Our theory of the phases of a cycle that we have presented here is not unique to us. It builds upon earlier work of both the late 20th century astrologer Dane Rudhyar and of astrologer Michael Erlewine who was the first person to create a computer program for computing a horoscope. Rudhyar describes in his book "Astrological Aspects: A Process Oriented Approach" the twelve phases of a relationship that we've presented above as (1) being, (2) focusing, (3) organizing, (4) deciding, (5) expressing, (6) improving, (7) realizing, (8) sharing, (9) understanding, (10) revaluing, (11) reorganizing, and (12) releasing. These same relationships are described by Michael Erlewine in his book "Astrology's Mirror: Full Phase Aspects" as (1) impulse, (2) planning, (3) embrace, (4) start, (5) embody, (6) extend, (7) experience, (8) know, (9) conserve, (10) detach, (11) trim, and (12) capsulate. Both Rudhyar and Erlewine, in my opinion, provide valuable reflections upon the real meanings behind the stages of any cycle.